



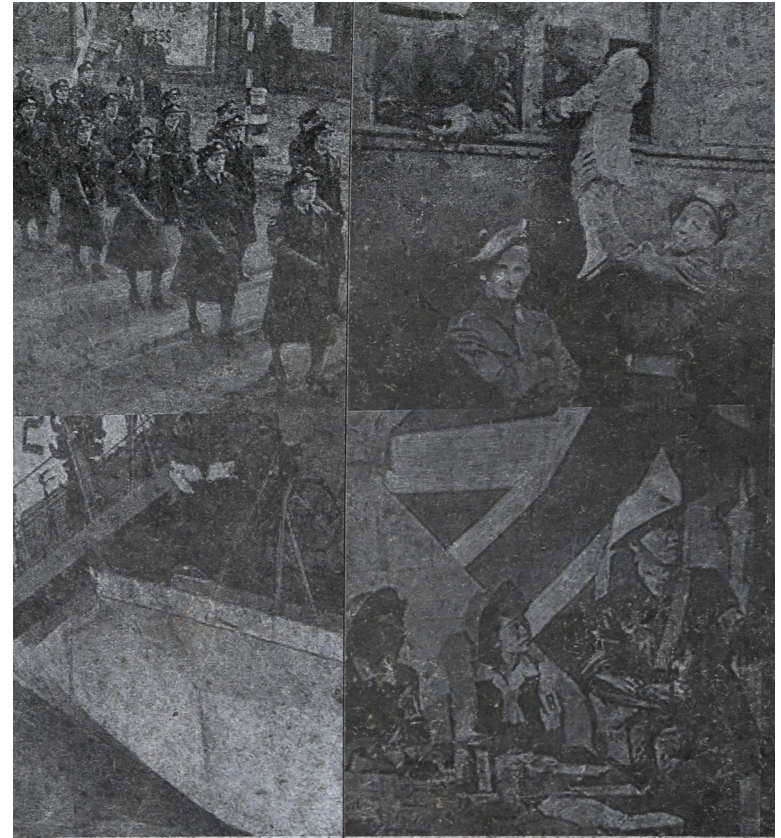
The Ontario Veterans' Memorial + The Afghanistan Memorial

Remembering
Ontario's Veterans



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Ontario Veterans' Memorial

The Ontario Veterans' Memorial, completed in 2006, commemorates the participation of the province's citizens in military campaigns from the 1860s to recent peacekeeping missions, as well as those who continue to serve today. The 30 metre long (100 feet) memorial features scenes from Canada's military history etched in granite. The wall is also inscribed with text written by poet Jane Urquhart and military historian Professor Jack Granatstein.

The memorial features a red maple tree planted behind the wall. The annual falling of its bright red leaves in autumn symbolizes the sacrifices of those who served, and continue to serve, in the Canadian Armed Forces.

The Ontario Veterans' Memorial was designed by Canadian artist Allan Harding Mackay and landscape architectural firm Phillips Farevaag Smallenberg.

Above and right: View of the Ontario Veterans' Memorial in front of the Legislative Building, and close-ups of some of its etched granite panels



Afghanistan Memorial

On November 11th, 2020, a companion monument was unveiled next to the Ontario Veterans' Memorial – the Afghanistan Memorial. It recognizes the participation of Canadians who served during the mission in Afghanistan, beginning on September 11th, 2001. Like the Veterans' Memorial, it features scenes from the Afghanistan conflict etched in granite and was designed by landscape architectural firm Phillips Farevaag Smallerberg.

It also includes a bronze component in a folded and ribbon-like form, which symbolizes the first Canadian involvement during 9/11, beginning with supporting those who were stranded at Canadian airports after the World Trade Centre attacks, and the unfolding of events in the years since. When the bronze ribbon is viewed from the south, the top line recalls the silhouette of the mountains of Afghanistan.

Clockwise from top: The Afghanistan Memorial, its tallest element, the memorial's descriptive panel, and a stone from the Inukshuk erected at Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan.



The Afghanistan Memorial also includes a stone from an Inukshuk dedicated to the fallen soldiers – it was erected by Canadian soldiers at Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan.

When viewed from the south, the tallest element creates a frame with the edge of the bronze end wall of the Ontario Veterans' Memorial. When looked at together, these two tall framing elements evoke the forms of the World Trade Center twin towers.

A fallen maple leaf pattern etched within the pavement connects the two memorials and represents a continuation of time. This pattern of leaves creates a pathway from the existing memorial wall to the new memorial.



Canada's Military History

Canada has an extensive military history. The Canadian militia fought in numerous conflicts leading up to and shortly after Confederation in 1867, including the War of 1812 and defending Canada against the Fenian raids in the 1860s and '70s. The Canadian militia was also involved in early conflicts in western Canada, including the Red River Resistance and the North-West Resistance.

The South African War (1899-1902) marked the first time Canadians fought on foreign soil in the uniforms of Canadian Forces.

During the First World War, Canadian soldiers gained an extraordinary reputation for bravery and skill. The Great War was also the first time Canadians were conscripted for military service.

Four men who were decorated with the Victoria Cross during the



Walter Leigh
Rayfield



Charles Smith
Rutherford



Henry Howey
Robson



Benjamin
Handley Geary

First World War, the British Empire's highest military decoration, later served as Sergeants-at-Arms for Ontario's Parliament in the 1930s and '40s. This position is responsible for the security of our Parliament.

Canada again offered a large contribution in support of the Allied cause during the Second World War, with over one million men and women in uniform out of a population of just eleven million.

Following the Second World War, Canadians continued to serve through the decades that followed, from the Korean War in the 1950s to deploying overseas under the banners of the United Nations and NATO, to the Afghanistan conflict in the early 2000s. Today Canadian troops continue to play an important role in many regions experiencing conflict around the world.

Above left: Geary is carried in on a stretcher at Achiet-le-Petit, France. August 21, 1918.
© Imperial War Museum

Left to right: Walter Leigh Rayfield served as Sergeant-at-Arms from 1934 to 1935. © Library and Archives Canada; **Charles Smith Rutherford served as Sergeant-at-Arms from 1935 to 1940.** © Library and Archives Canada; **Henry Howey Robson served as Sergeant-at-Arms from 1941 to 1946.** © Imperial War Museum; **Benjamin Handley Geary served as Sergeant-at-Arms from 1947 to 1976.** © Imperial War Museum

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